Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Independent community banks in South Dakota serve as the heartbeat of every community in this state and have established a tradition of real community involvement, consistently reinvesting deposits in the communities they serve in the form of commercial, agricultural, real estate, and consumer loans; and,

Whereas, Community state banks are strong and secure, maintaining outstanding capital levels, and giving their customers peace of mind because their deposits are safe; and,

Whereas, Personal service, trust, and outstanding product offerings are the specialties of community banks in their customer relationships, making community banks extremely competitive in an ever-changing financial service marketplace; and,

Whereas, The tradition of independent banking in South Dakota is one of hometown people binding together to help their towns grow and of neighbors helping neighbors and friends helping friends succeed; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's independent community banks are indeed the economic backbone of our state; and,

Whereas, In order to create a greater public awareness and understanding of the important role that independent community banks play in the economy of our state and the ongoing role they will play in its future:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2008 as

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKING MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State